

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0388.P1

Remarks

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 30, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 30, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-42 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 7 and 11 - 15 have been cancelled by Applicants. Claims 1-10, 16, 22, 24-26, and 28 are rejected and claims 29-42 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10, 16, 22, 24-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) in view of Nobileau (US 5,794,702), on grounds that those claims are anticipated by Nobileau. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Nobileau reference does not disclose expanding a tubular past its plastic limit as asserted by the Examiner. Column 7, lines 56 and 57 of Nobileau state that the upper end portion 15c is corrugated. Column 8, lines 19-22 of Nobileau state that upper end portion 15c is still corrugated during insertion of the packers 71. Figure 12 shows the operation of the inserted packers 71 on section 15c. As are most patent figures, Figure 12 is non-dimensional. Although Nobileau states that the corrugations are plastically deformed to render the casing cylindrical, the character of any following circumferential casing deformation shown at 15c in Figure 12 of Nobileau is not "clearly past its plastic limit" as purely elastic deformation is also a well known phenomenon. Therefore, Nobileau, does not teach, show, or suggest expanding a reformed tubular past its plastic limit, as recited in claim 1, 16, and 22 and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-15, 17-21, 23, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response applicant

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has rewritten claims 11 through 15 as new claims 43 through 47 respectively. Applicant believes new claims 43 through 47 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

Claims 29-42 are allowed.

New Claims

New claims 48 through 56 have been added to define aspects of the present invention. Applicant believes that the cited reference does not teach, show or suggest a method for placing an expanded tubular into a wellbore comprising: providing an assembly comprising a deformed tubular body having an undeformed substantially circular diameter and at least one major axis as deformed that is less than the undeformed diameter and an expander member; lowering the assembly into the wellbore; positioning the assembly at a desired location in the wellbore; reforming the tubular body so that at least one of the major axis is substantially the same as the undeformed diameter; expanding the tubular body past its plastic limit using the expander member; allowing elastic recovery of the tubular body, the tubular body having a diameter larger than the undeformed diameter following the recovery as recited in new claims 48 through 56. Therefore applicants believe that the new claims 48 through 56 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

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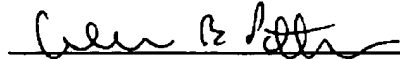
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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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